

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-12

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AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI UNN

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS GR

SUBJECT: POLICE DENIAL OF TORTURE ALLEGATION

1. COLONEL VASSILIOS PAPADAKOS, GENDARMARIE COMMANDER FOR ATTICA AND THE ISLANDS, COMPLETED JAN 14 HIS INVESTIGATION INTO THE "PANTZALIS AFFAIR" WHICH MINISTER PUBLIC ORDER GHIKAS IMMEDIATELY RELEASED TO PRESS. THE TEN DAY INVESTIGATION INCLUDED THIRTY NINE WITNESSES AND CONCLUDED THAT NO DISCIPLINARY ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST TWO SUSPENDED GENDARMERIE OFFICIALS ON ISLAND OF EVIA "BECAUSE ALLEGATIONS ARE UNTRUE."

2. THESSALONIKI STUDENT PANTZALIS HAD ALLEGED THAT ON NEW YEARS EVE HE WAS TORTURED BY SECURITY AUTHORITIES DURING INTERROGATION AT EVIA VILLAGE OF ALIVERI ABOUT HIS SUSPECTED LEFTIST PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES. AN ATHENS GIRL ALSO PICKED UP AT SAME TIME ALLEGED THAT SHE WAS HARASSED. THE POLICE INQUIRY FOUND THAT COUPLE WERE HELD ONLY TWENTY MINUTES IN CONNECTION WITH LEFTIST SLOGANS PAINTED ON WALLS IN VILLAGE AND THAT NEITHER THEIR RIGHTS NOR PERSONS HAD BEEN ABUSED BY LOCAL OFFICIALS.

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3. GHIKAS SAID TWO OFFICIALS WOULD REMAIN SUSPENDED

FROM DUTIES UNTIL A PARALLEL JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION IS
SHORTLY CONCLUDED.

4. THE PANTZALIS ALLEGATION HAS BEEN SOMETHING OF PRESS
SENSATION HERE SINCE FRIENDS OF THE STUDENTS FIRST
SURFACED THE STORY TO NEWSMEN ON JAN 1. LEFTIST PAPERS
IMMEDIATELY ASSUMED ALLEGATIONS TO BE TRUE. STORY
KEPT ALIVE THROUGH WHAT PASSES FOR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING
IN GREECE--FIELD TRIPS TO VILLAGE FOR PICTURES AND
INTERVIEWS AND CONTINUING PUBLIC DEBATE WHETHER POLICE
HAS BEEN SUFFICIENTLY DEJUNTIZED. TODAY'S REPORT INDICATES
THAT ONE SIDE OR OTHER IS NOW ENTRAPPED IN BALD LYING AND
IF, AS IT SEEMS, IT IS THE STUDENTS, LARGE PART OF NATIONAL
PRESS HAS DISSEMINATED AND ELABORATED LURID MYTH. MORALE
AND REPUTATION OF PROVINCIAL POLICE HAVE NOT BEEN
HELPED BY THE EXTENSIVE PRESS DESCRIPTIONS OF
FALLANGA TREATMENT WHICH PANTZALIS ALLEGED HAD BEEN
HIS FATE WHEN IN HANDS OF POLICE.
KUBISCH

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